

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Posz on 5/12/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel Claims 1-3 and 8-14, non-elected without traverse.

Amend claims 4-7 as follows:

4. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

manufacturing a release liner having a plurality of bottomed holes that open out on a release treated surface side thereof formed therein in prescribed positions at a prescribed number density, and

forming a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer on said release treated surface of said release liner, and

~~making gas from said holes in said release liner move to the outside of said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, to form~~ forming in said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer ~~so as to have a prescribed diameter~~ a plurality of through holes ~~passing~~ that have a prescribed diameter and that pass through said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer in a thickness direction as a result of gas moving from said holes in said release liner to the outside of said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer; and

laminating said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer onto one surface of a base material having gas-passing channels that communicate to the outside of the pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet formed in at least said one surface thereof, such that said gas-passing channels in said base material and said through holes in said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer communicate with one another.

5. (Currently amended) The method of manufacturing a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a support of said release liner is made of a material containing air and/or moisture.

6. (Currently amended) The method of manufacturing a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a gas barrier layer is formed in advance on a non-release treated surface side of said support of said release liner.

7. (Currently amended) The method of manufacturing a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet according to any one of claims 4 through 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said holes in said release liner have a diameter of 0.1 to 2000  $\mu\text{m}$  and a number density of 30 to 100,000 per 100  $\text{cm}^2$ .

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: .There is no reference of record which shows the step of forming holes in an adhesive layer by the formation of a gas through the holes in the release liner component.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

Art Unit: 1791

preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID SIMMONS whose telephone number is (571)272-5801. The examiner can normally be reached on Tues. and Thu. 7:15 AM to 3:45PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571)272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeff Aftergut/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791

DAS

Application/Control Number: 10/592,014

Page 5

Art Unit: 1791

5/18/10